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HORTICULTURE NORTHWEST

Ten Year Index

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Larix leptolepis
 Japanese larch
 Jean G. Witt

ARBORETUM GETS "SPRING CLEANING" THANKS TO MUSEUM SERVICES GRANTS

March 14, 1985

The Washington Park Arboretum is a living museum, says Arboretum Director H. B. Tukey, not just another urban park or nature preserve. That is why, for the first time in many years, federal funds have been awarded to help renovate the 50-year-old plant "museum."

The federal Institute of Museum Services has awarded two grants to the Center for Urban Horticulture, which administers the Arboretum. One grant covers \$45,000 in operations costs, the other is a \$25,000 conservation grant to begin renovating the plant collection by removing 200 "weed" trees and restoring the plantings beneath them.

Most of these trees were already on the land in 1936 when the Olmsted Brothers laid out the Arboretum. Now these trees have outgrown the original design, blocking vistas and putting the plan out of balance.

"Some trees that were originally moderate in size are now very large and collections planted underneath them are suffering," Tukey said. "Other trees such as big leaf maple are dying or already dead as part of their regular life cycle."

The overgrowth has shut out light to many rhododendron and other flowering shrub collections, diminishing the bloom and distorting the shape of the shrubs. Poor air circulation beneath these trees makes many plants vulnerable to disease in our moist climate. And the weed trees rob the other plants of needed nutrients and water.

Like an art museum conserving and restoring valuable paintings, the Arboretum is using the grant to preserve and restore its collection of woody plants, which includes more than 5,200 taxa of trees, shrubs and vines.

For example, the Arboretum's holly collection, once one of the finest in the nation, has declined in part because of the overgrowth of trees. "This work will open it up a bit and allow us to come in with new varieties developed over the past 20 years," Tukey said.

Removing the trees will probably take four months, said Tukey, and is delicate and expensive work. Often, branches must be cut off and lowered by rope, and the trunk removed in sections. "Depending on the size and location it can take three or four days to remove one tree," he explained.

Plants beneath the trees are vulnerable to damage and in some cases will be completely dug up, transferred to a greenhouse and then replanted after the trees are removed.

While the conservation grant will improve life for the plant collection, the \$45,000 operations grant will improve the educational and interpretive

materials for the Arboretum users, including descriptive brochures and interpretive signs. Other funds have helped urban horticulture staff develop courses on topics such as pruning, pest control and plant disease.

The horticultural renovation of the Arboretum will probably take 15 years, Tukey added, and cost about \$1 million. As in many other American arboreta, decades of growth have made some plant collections overcrowded, senescent or in need of upgrading to reflect new horticultural knowledge.



DAVID HANCOCKS JOINS ARBORETUM PROJECT

David Hancocks, former director of the Woodland Park Zoo, has just joined the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture as a consultant in developing interpretive materials for the Washington Park Arboretum, which is managed by the Center. With a \$45,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum Services, Hancocks and Center staff will create maps, signs, brochures, and other materials to help visitors explore and understand the Arboretum.

"We're delighted to have the benefit of David Hancocks' talent and experience on this project," says H. B. Tukey, Jr., Director of the Center. The Arboretum's guided tours, he explains, are excellent, but visitors who prefer walking the grounds on their own need more direction and information. Hancocks' first job will be developing an overall concept for interpreting the Arboretum plant collections to this "self-guided" public. Then he will work with Arboretum staff as project manager, overseeing production of the various elements of the plan.

"This is a very appealing project," says Hancocks, who was trained as a landscape architect, "but also a very challenging one." Public education, he believes, ought to be the major purpose of institutions like the Zoo and the Arboretum--"but people visit places such as the Arboretum to enjoy the plants and the natural environment, not to read signs." The challenge is to find devices that can guide and educate visitors without being obtrusive or intimidating. "At least," says Hancocks, "we're starting from scratch. The IMS grant is a wonderful opportunity to develop a total, consistent approach."

While at the Zoo, Hancocks pioneered the development of natural habitats for animals, such as the African Savanna. He recently collaborated with architects Gordon Walker and Grant Jones on a new master plan for the Seattle Center. The Arboretum project will be among Hancocks' last in Seattle, as he plans to move with his family to Australia in mid-summer.



N.O.H.S. FINANCIAL REVIEW 1984

OPERATIONS:

MEMBERSHIP - Income	\$10,996.47	
- Expense	757.46	\$10,239.01
ADMINISTRATION - Expense		(279.23)
JOURNAL - Income	487.00	
- Expense	11,306.20	(10,819.20)*
NOTE PAPER SALES - Income		22.50
DUES - To Horticultural Organizations - Exp.		(200.00)
ANNUAL MEETING - Income	9.50	
- Expense	348.91	(339.41)**
YEARBOOK - Expense		(36.00)
BY-LAWS PRINTING - Expense		(62.77)
ACCOUNTANT - Expense		(490.00)
INSURANCE - Expense		(218.40)

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

LECTURE SERIES - Income	6,056.00	
- Expense	5,385.92	670.08
SEED EXCHANGE - Income	269.75	
- Expense	315.25	(45.50)
GARDEN TOURS - Income	470.00	
- Expense	197.93	272.07
INTEREST - Merrill, Lynch - Income		4,384.64

PHILANTHROPIC:

PLANT SALE - Income	11,375.30	
- Expense	6,430.98	4,944.32
FERN SALE - Income	3,310.80	
- Expense	1,368.88	1,941.92
CONTRIBUTIONS - Exp. Rhod. Species Found.		(1,000.00)
Center for Urb. Hort.		(10,000.00)
TOTAL - ALL FUNDS		(1,015.97)
MERRILL, LYNCH BACK-UP FUND		44,898.04
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS - Separated		200.00

SPECIAL PROJECT:

CUH OPENING DINNER - Proceeds	25,572.71
CONTRIBUTION - CUH - Expense	(25,572.71)

SEGREGATED FUNDS:

EDUCATIONAL FUND	68,289.84***
MEMORIAL FUND	1,646.22
LECTURE SERIES FUND	4,109.33

*Includes publishing the revised By-Laws, and special issue celebrating the opening of the Center for Urban Horticulture.

**This annual meeting was held after a lecture, therefore there were no additional charges to those attending.

***The Educational Fund will continue unspent until it reaches \$100,000.00, after which the interest will be used to forward horticultural education.

BOOK REVIEW: ROCK PLANTS FOR SMALL GARDENS, Royton E. Heath, Collingridge Books, 1982; 134 pages, 3 appendix and index, 16 line drawings, 54 color and black and white photographs by the author. Price £7.95, hardback.

Royton Heath's book Rock Plants for Small Gardens is a marvelous resource for anyone truly pursuing the growing of small plants. Mr. Heath has condensed the needed information into an abbreviated format. It takes some concentration to work; however, with use, this small-sized guide becomes familiar and helpful in sorting out the needs of the 1,000 plants discussed.

The neophyte gardener may not want to begin with this as his only resource, but in Heath's own words, the "dainty, delicate, bewitching charm" of the smallest gems create a reaction in the beholder..... a desire to grow the plants. But how to see the fully beauty of small plants and to meet their rather specific needs? This is where the book is really helpful. There is much information on the Trough Concept of growing and very complete descriptions of several ways to build the trough or scree frame, the "Billiard Table, rock pot or peat bed." He includes valuable information on the composts needed for growing both the seed and plants.

Heat discusses in layman's terms the procedures to follow with considerations ranging from seed dormancy and germination to composts and suggested companions. There is a marvelous section on propagation with solid advice to the grower on what to do and how to do it. Methods of seed sowing with divisions and cuttings are fully discussed along with pitfalls and pests. Dwarf conifers take another chapter with valuable information on pruning, position and propagation.

The love of native plants began for me with family camping and many backpacking trips into our forests and mountains. The singular beauty of each plant would draw my admiration and, as a photographer, I studied each discovered species. My appreciation became much greater with recognition of the tough character needed to survive in many of the preferred growing sites. This book takes into account the specific and controlled conditions that are often needed for many of these plants. Royton Heath's guide should be a great aid to success with these plants in small gardens and scree conditions.

Sylvia Duryee



THE 1985 SEED EXCHANGE

Your committee is interested in hearing of your successes and failures (not many we hope). Any problems? Would you be interested in a couple of hours spent on seed sowing with composts and pans made available? Is there a special species of which you would like seed? Let us know.....Sylvia Duryee and Marge Baird.

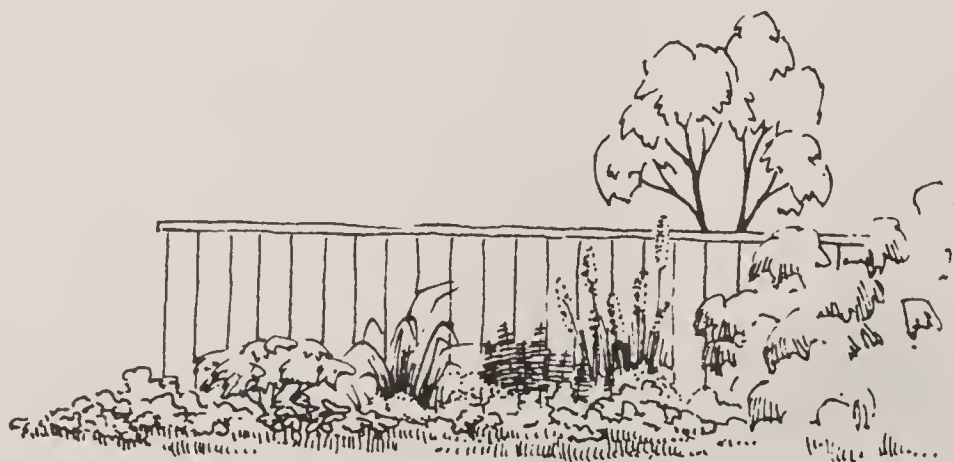
The following are seed growing formulas as worked out and published in Royton Heath's book *Collectors Alpine*.

1. All ordinary and easy types of seed
 - 2 parts sterile loam
 - 1 part sieved peat
 - 1 part sharp (traction) or Cornish sand
2. More difficult and rare plants needing open airy soil
 - 1 part heavy loam
 - 1 leaf mold
 - 2 parts sharp sand
3. Shade lovers and ericaceous plants
 - 1 part leaf mold, 1 part peat, 1 part sharp sand

ADDITIONAL NOTES: Measure by bulk, keep all fibrous material, cut up if needed (do not sieve, but rub down between the hands), (the fibers help to keep the compost from packing).

Add 1-1/2 oz. of superphosphate to each bushel (about 30 gallons).

Use sterile seed pans with a good layer of drainage material in the bottom.....S.C.D.



Tidbits

by Ladybug



GAYLUSSACIA: When I was first confronted by a plant of this genus, I thought, what an odd name. Yet, there was something vaguely familiar about it. So I harked back to my school days and recalled a Gay-Lussac's Law. This was no Murphy's or Parkinson's type of law, but a statement regarding the physical properties of gases.

So I looked it up and, sure enough, Gay-Lussac (the name is spelled with a hyphen) was an eminent French chemist in the early 19th century. Also, he had apparently minored in Botany and had some very good friends in the plant world. They had commemorated his achievements by giving his name to this genus.

So he has been immortalized in two fields of knowledge. This is quite an accomplishment. It was a nice gesture by his friends except that hardly anybody now recognizes his name.

A few years ago, while on a garden tour in Britain, we visited a large estate with an imposing classical style manor house which was open for viewing by garden visitors. In a gallery along with other objects of interest was a museum-type glass display case with an exhibit of notebooks and manuscripts in longhand French writing. They were Gay-Lussac's. He had apparently been a favorite guest of the lord. It's a small world.

C. Robin



*Calypso
bulbosa*

In loving memory

Dr. Henry T. Skinner



Wild Flowers of the United States

by

H. W. Rickett

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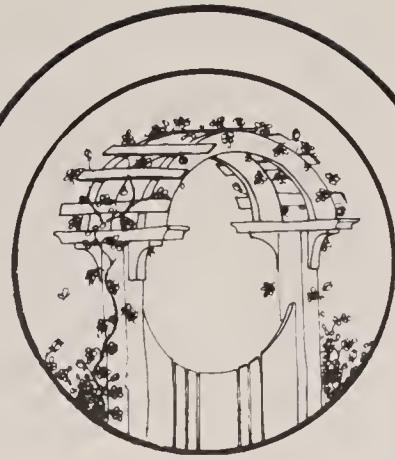
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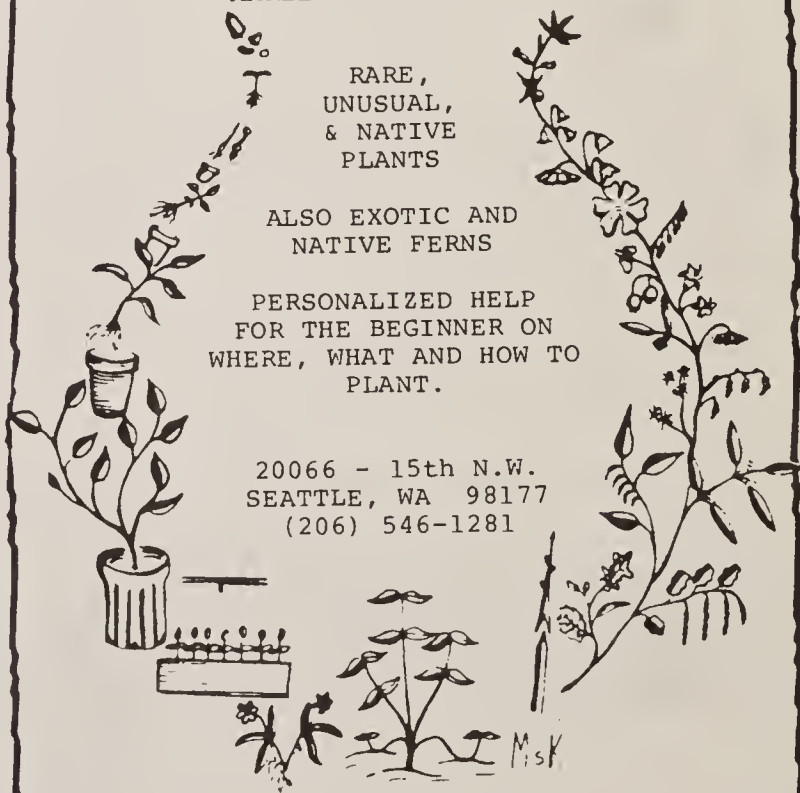
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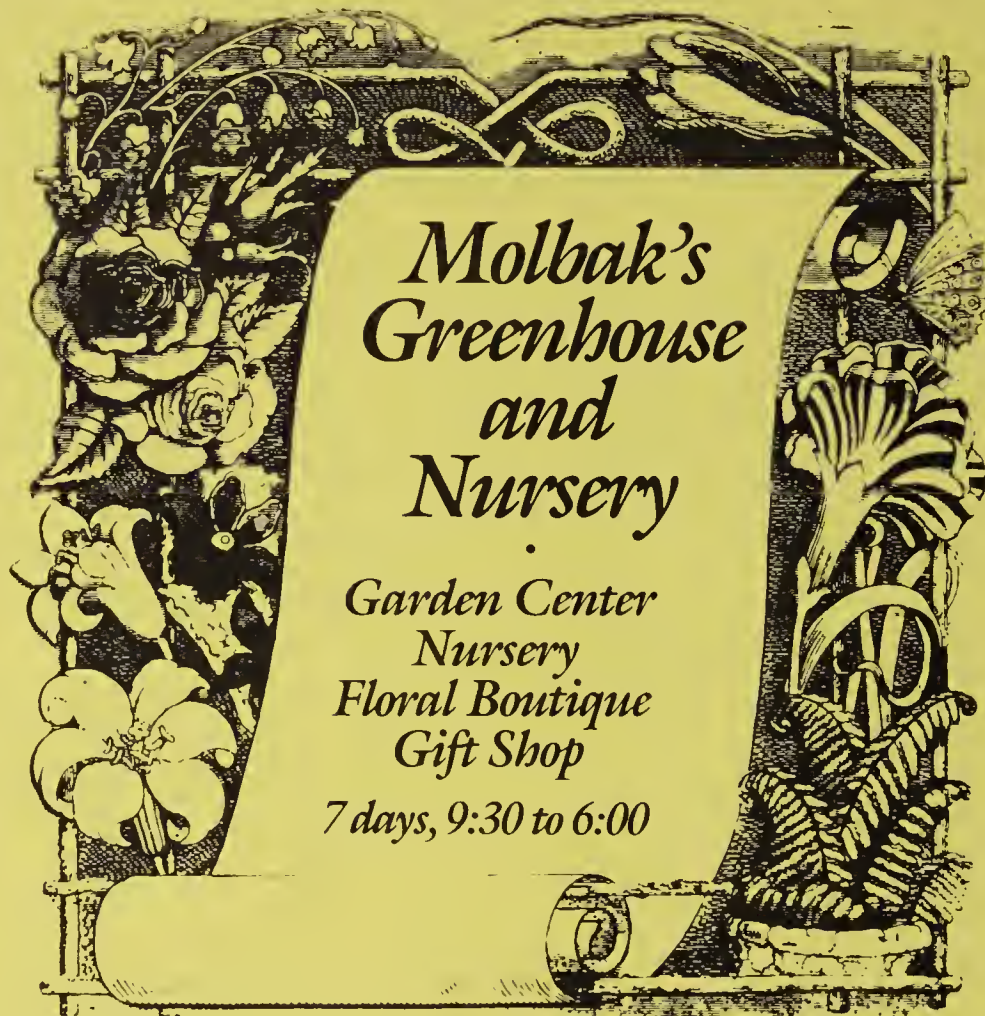
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